seventeenth century was disastrous for Finland because of the subsequent years of famine and pestilence which cut down the country's population of half a million by one-third. And immediately afterwards came the Great Northern War, in which the Finnish troops excelled under the command of King Charles XII in foreign battlefields, but which left the country defenseless against the depredations of Czar Peter the Great. After Charles XII was defeated and his army dispersed, most of the Finnish officers and soldiers went to imprisonment in Siberia rather than to accept advantageous positions in the service of the Czar. Meanwhile, Russian troops had invaded Finland and conquered one area after another, until they finally had the entire country in their